MINUTES

—:OF THE:—

Fortieth-Annual Session

—:OF THE:—

Warrior River Baptist Association

—HELD WITH—

HOLLY POND BAPTIST CHURCH,

HOLLY POND, ALA.,

October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1898.

OFFICERS.

ALLEN DORMAN, Moderator. - - - McLarty, Ala.

O. A. STEELE, Clerk. - - - - - Oneonta, Ala.

I. T. STEPHENS, Treasurer. - - Blountsville, Ala.

The next Session will be held with Macedonia Baptist Church, beginning on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1899.

ONEONTA, ALA.:

SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1898.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters.
2. Elect officers.
3. Call for correspondence.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appoint temporary committees.
   (1) On devotion.
   (2) On deceased ministers.
   (3) On nominations.
   (4) On letters and documents.
   (5) On finance.
6. Appoint standing committees.
   (a) On Sabbath schools.
   (b) On missions.
   (c) On temperance.
   (d) On orphanage and orphans.
   (e) On education and ministerial education.
7. Appoint delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
8. Call for report of executive committee.
9. Call for report of missionary.
10. Call for report of committees.
11. Call for report of treasurer.
12. Provide for printing of minutes.
13. Elect executive committee
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Adjourn.

MINUTES

—: OF THE :—

Fortieth-Annual Session

—: OF THE :—

Warrior River Baptist Association

—{ HELD WITH }—

HOLLY POND BAPTIST CHURCH,

HOLLY POND, ALA.,

October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1898.

OFFICERS.

ALLEN DORMAN, Moderator, - - - McLarty, Ala.

O. A. STEELE, Clerk, - - - - - Oneonta, Ala.

I. T. STEPHENS, Treasurer, - - Blountsville, Ala.

The next Session will be held with Macedonia Baptist Church, beginning on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1899.

ONEONTA, ALA.:

SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1898.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union and also of all ordained ministers, who are in good standing in their own churches: provided such churches are members of this Association, and shall be known as the Warrior River Baptist Association.

2. Each church shall send a letter to the Association by its messengers, giving the number baptized, received and dismissed by letter, excluded, restored or died during the associational year, total membership in fellowship, time of monthly meeting together with the contribution for minutes and other purposes

3. This Association shall be considered merely an advisory council claiming no authority over the rights and privileges of the individual churches, nor constituting itself an eclesiastical court to sit in judgment on church difficulties. It is agreed, however that this Association may appoint a committee of the body for the purpose of reconciling church difficulties, provided such interference is asked by such confused church or part of a church, and it is further agreed that the Association shall have the right to withdraw fellowship from any church that departs from the faith and order of the Gospel.

4. Each church shall be entitled to send three messengers to this Association and one additional messenger for every twenty-five after the first fifty members: and should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state the reason for such failure in her next letter to the Association.

5. Any baptist church may be admitted into the Association by sending a petitionary letter and messengers. If upon investigation she is found orthodox and orderly, the Moderator shall extend her messengers the right hand of fellowship.

6. The Association shall elect, annually, from the body a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations, preserve order and see that the rules of decorum are faithfully carried out by the members, decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the body, and give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided. The Clerk shall faithfully record all the proceedings of the body and superintend the publication and distribution of the minutes among the churches.

7. This Association may adopt a plan for raising funds by voluntary contributions to defray the expenses of the Association, for supplying destitute churches and settlements in her bounds, with the preaching of the gospel and for any other purpose which she shall deem proper, leaving every church member free to contribute as he shall purpose in his heart. All funds raised thus shall be placed in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable for the same to the Association and shall disburse it as the Association may direct.

8. This Association adopts the declaration of faith as published in Pendleton's Church Manual, and Mell's Parlimentary Practice Manual as its exponent of parlimentary law.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except in case of an alteration of, or amendment to, this constitution.

10. This Association shall elect annually one of her members to preach the introductory sermon, and one to preach on the subject of missions.

11. The minutes shall be read and approved by the body and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

12. This constitution may be altered or amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the alteration or amendment has been proposed at the previous meeting of the Association.

MINUTES.

Holly Pond, Ala. Oct. 14th, 1898.

The Warrior River Baptist Association met this day in its Fortieth Annual Session with the church at Holly Pond, at 11 o'clock a. m , Bro. Allen Dorman, Moderator, presiding. After devotional exercises, conducted by Bro H. G. B. Bynum, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. H. W. Head. Text, "When I am weak then am I strong," latter clause, 10th verse, 12th chapter, 2nd Cor. The sermon was a strong persentation of God's power to accomplish his purposes, and a strong appeal for Godliness and less selfishness, as churches, as preachers, and as individual christians.

Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. W. Y. Adams.

Bros. W. Y. Adams, S. J. Cox, and P. G. Alldredge were appointed as reading clerks.

Churches and delegates were enrolled as follows:—

Antioch—F P Smith, F P Morris, R Notion, R A Mann, and S O Howard.

New Harmony—G W Hicks, W B Roberts, J H Roberts, Walter Hains, and Francis Tidwell.

Macedonia—M B Lowery, W E Watson, A J McCarley, and Allen Dorman.

Austin Creek—D M Fowler, E K Head, A L Pass, and J P Baswell.

Friendship—G R Williamson, J I Hughes, and J H Nix.

Pine Grove—J W Crumbley, S R Burson, and A J Griffin.

Cedar Grove—J I Green, and J N Fowler.

Liberty Hill—W J Martin, D H Campbell, and E M Cox.

Mt Tabor—Joshua Ratliff, and W H Clapp.

Big Warrior—Will Adcock, and A R Head

Mt Pleasant—H H Turley, and W D Redman.

Mt Pisgah—W J Harris, John Nix, and Charley Temple.

Pine Bluff—W J Lee, D H Simms, and T T Simms.

Harmony—J A May, W L Ellison, C H Cook, J K Nix, and A F Whitley.

Holly Pond—J M Daniels, W H Mitchell, O W Harmon, J F Dismukes, J A Chance, W M House, and O W Baily.

Bethel—J N Holmes, H G B Bynum, J G Blanton, and Jesse Brown.

Blountsville—R B Simms, John Moore, H W Head, G A Chunn, and A S T Graves.

Brooksville—P G Alldredge, Lee Hearn, and John W Jones.

New Prospect—Joe Johnston, W R Barker, and R H Allison.

Oak Grove—J H Pannel, W M Pannel, W J Skinner, and Dallas Pannel.

Mulberry—James Starns, R P Starns, and C F Absher.

Guin's Cove—W M McAnnally and J S Musgrove.

Liberty—James Carnes, J M Russell, Dan Baily, and O A Steele.

County Line—A H Holcomb.

The election of officers being next in order, the Moderator appointed Bros. W. Y. Adams, L. Mullins and H. W. Little as tellers and the ballot was ordered, which resulted in the election of Bro. Allen Dorman as Moderator, O. A. Steele as Clerk, and Bro. I. T Stephens as Treasurer.

Then called for petitionary letters. None presented.

On the call for correspondents received Bros. L. Mullins, H. W. Little and Ledbetter from Cullman Association, and Bro. W. Y. Adams from the Etowah Association as representative of State Mission Board.

A committee was appointed on devotion, as follows:—F. P. Morris, A. F. Whitley, R. B. Simms and the Deacons of Holly Pond church.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended, and took up the election and appointment of delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist State Convention. On motion Bros. Allen Dorman and H W. Head were unanimously elected as delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention with Francis Tidwell as alternate Called for volunteers to go the Baptist State Convention, and the following brethren volunteered to go as delegates:—H. G. B. Bynum, H. W. Head, W. A. Alexander, G. A. Chunn, and F. M. Absher. Southern Baptist Convention meets at Louisville, Ky., on Thursday before the second Sunday in May, 1899.

Committee on Devotion reported that Bro. H. G B. Bynum would preach at night, followed by Bro. W. A. Alexander, and that Bro. F. M Absher would preach at Duck River.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. Alldredge:—

Resolved: That this Association urge and insist on the Baptist Ministers of the State of Alabama organizing themselves into a Mutual Benefit Association. To the end that in case of death or permanent disability our ministers not be thrown on the cold charities of the world to be neglected in their old age when they are no longer able to serve the churches as some of our ministers have done.

Resolved: Further that we ask brother Bledsoe as our Secretary to take up this matter and push it to a finish, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Alabama Baptist for publication, and that the Secretary of this Association be directed to write a personal letter to Bro. Bledsoe calling his attention to this Resolution.

Resolution was discussed by Brethren Alldredge, Chunn, Howard, Ratliff, Adams, Absher, Burson, Dorman, Crumbley, and Cox.

Association adjourned, pending the discussion of resolution, to meet at 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

Preaching at night by Bro. Bynum and Bro. Alexander.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

MORNING SESSION.

Saturday, Oct. 15th.

After devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed temporary committees, to-wit:—

On Letters and Documents—J. M. Russell, A. L. Passand M. B. Lowery,
On State of Religion—J. W. Crumbley, Emory Bowerman and A. J. Griffin.
On Finance—W. L. Ellison, Lee L. Hearn and W. M. Harris.
On Prayer Meeting—W. J. Lee, Jesse Brown and Alas Pannell.
On Deceased Ministers—Albert Head, O. W. Harmon and F. P. Smith.
On Nominations—W. L. Ellison, E. K. Head and A. J. McCarley.

On motion regular order of business was suspended and called for correspondence and petitionary letters, when County Line church presented a petitionary letter asking membership with us and also a letter of dismission from Mineral Springs Association. On motion, the church was received and the Moderator extended to the delegates, representing said church, the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the Association.

Bro. Thomas Weeks was recognized as a correspondent from the Cullman Association.

Took up the resolution, which was left undisposed of on yesterday, and on motion was tabled until the next Association.

Called for reports of Standing Committees.

Report on Temperance read by Bro. Head, chairman of the committee, discussed by Bro. Head, and adopted as follows:—

We have every reason to believe that as a Baptist people we have made permanent advancement in the cause of temperance. A few years ago in our reports, and in the discussions which followed, there were urgent appeals made to abstain from the improper use of intoxicating beverages. To day such reports would be an insinuation on the character of this body and upon our people. We have placed our standard higher and have been trying faithfully to work to it till to day total abstainance is the rule of all our preachers worthy of the name, and there is not so far as our information goes, a single church within our bounds that would hold in its membership any one guilty of drunkenness or that would assist in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating beve ages, and if they did they could not get a respectable pastor to serve them. For all this we should be thankful. Of course the world of sin continues to wage war against us, but with our united sentiment and solid force we are better prepared to meet it. These principles are working their way into public sentiment A man can no longer be elected to office because of the amount of whiskey he offers to the people on election days. No teacher can procure a license to teach in our public schools whose character is stained with whiskey and with the tears and blood innocent women and children. No physician can procure a respectable patronage who is known to be a drunkard and no young man can obtain a creditable position in the business world who is known to drink. Brethren and Sisters; let us keep our standard high, our banners unfurled and our swords shining and God will give us the victory.

Respectfully,

H. W. HEAD, Chairman.

Committee on Missions was called for and by request Bro. G. A. Chunn made their report, which was discussed by Brethren G. A. Chunn, W. Y. Adams, H. W. Head, and S. J. Cox, amended and adopted as follows:—

We your Committee on Missions submit the following:—

STATE MISSIONS:—The State Board of Missions had in its employ, during the conventional year 1896-97, seventeen men, six of whom were regular missionaries, traveling and preaching the gospel in the destitute places in our beloved state. Eleven were employed as missionary pastors. The Borad received during the conventional year, for all purposes, $18,218.54 which is $251.64 less than the average for the last ten preceeding years While the receipts of the Board have been smaller than any one year for the past ten, its expenditures have been greater.

Brethren our State Board is indebt. as will be seen from the following condensed statement of its indebtedness:—

Department of State Missions proper, - - - - -	$1,573.36.
Amount due American Baptist Publication Society - -	415.12.
Amount due Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Con.	1,061.81.
Amount due Greensboro church - - - - - -	200.00.
Total Indebtedness of the Board - - - - - -	$6,250.29.

These figures admonish us in language that cannot be misunderstood, that extraordinary sacrifices must be made on the part of every Baptist within the

bounds of our association, and the entire state.

Home Missions:—The Home Mission Board sent out 467 missionaries during the last conventional year. These were employed for the whole of their time in traveling and preaching in the bounds of the Southern States, and the Indian Territory. The Board through its missionaries, has accomplished great good in our Sunny South and in the far West in planting the banner of Christ in places of destitution and sustaining the cause we so much love in many town and cities where Baptist preaching could not have otherwise been had. It is very gratifying, to report the Home Board out of debt, with a handsome sum in the treasury, which puts the Board on more solid basis for working the next conventional year. The receipts of the Board last year were $54,251.04 against $45.671.82 the preceeding year, which is an increase in contributions over the previous year of $8,579.22. This is indeed encouraging, and should stimulate every Baptist to greater liberalities so as to enable the Home Board to put more men in the field to supply many places of destitution which it has been unable to supply in the past.

Foreign Missions:—The Foreign Mission Board has done nobly in pressing its way into China, Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Japan and Africa, through the noble men and women employed by it with the gospel of peace. As a result of their work there were 701 baptisms in foreign fields last year. The board went to the convention it 1897 owing $13,532.79. At the last convention the board was able to report everything paid and $2,975.99 in the treasury. Surely we have cause for great gratitude to God for such wonderful results. Brethren with open doors unto every nation, let us press our way into every country and clime with the Gospel of peace. We would advise that each church in this association take at least monthly collections, and that the money thus raised be equally divided among the mission boards.

Respectfully submitted, G. A. CHUNN, Chair.

Committee on Education and Ministerial Education submitted the following as their report;—

Brethren: The subject of Education as we all know is one of great importance and while all the reports to this body previous to this urges a greater interest in this subject, we are glad to have the privilege of stating that our people (Baptist) have awaked to the importance of education and are doing more on that line than ever before, both in a general and a denominational line. We have many Baptist teachers in the country, and mixed faculties in the villages and towns.

We still have our noble Howard College, at East Lake, Ala., which continues its study growth and influence all over the South and West. We have also the famous Judson Female Institute where we should educate our girls if possible. The Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. belonging to the Southern Baptist should not pass unnoticed, for it is from her our men come that must successfully sustain our principles. Last we would present the youngest of our educational institutions in its infancy and a creature of our own home work. Located at Walnut Grove, Ala., under the guidance of Rev. W. Y. Adams assisted by a board of Directors.

Brethren: While we cherish all our denominational schools, let us give

our influence for W. G. C. Its future prospect is good and the result will be to us, our children and the denomination just what we make it. Let us pray for the success o' our Educational Institutions and God will give us the victory.

Respectfully submited. S. J. COX.

The report was read by Bro. S. J. Cox, discussed by Brethren S. J. Cox and G. A. Chunn, and Bro. Little from Cullman Association. Adjourned, pending the discussion of the report, for preaching at 11 o'clock, to convene at one o'clock.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Bro. W. Y. Adams, followed by Bro. W J. Lee. Bro. Adams' sermon was a strong and able presentation of the power of God's people when proper preparation and qualification have been made. May he live long and be able to preach many more such sermons.

AFTERNOON SESSION—SATURDAY.

Devotional exercises conducted by Moderator. Prayer by Bro. J. A. May.

Having under consideration report on Education and Ministerial Education speeches were limited to ten minutes. Brethren May, Adams, Head and Tidwell continued the discussion. Report adopted as read.

Called for report on our Orphanage and Orphans, which was read by Bro. Joshua Ratliff, chairman of the committee, which was as follows:—

This subject envolves one of the tests of "true and undefiled religion," and as such it demands our consideration. We would not offer an argument in support of this claim as we do not apprehend any controversy but only urge that as we grow in religious and denominational strength that we grow in this grace also. We have many Orphans who live among us and who demand and deserve our most tender sympathies and our constant help; and beside this we must remember our Orphans' Home located at Evergreen, an institution fostered and supported by the Baptist of Alabama. We refrain from giving statistics and refer our people to the regular reports that come out in The Alabama Baptist. The Orphans' Home has proven a success. The property is ours and the children are ours to care for. Let us increase the capacity and efficiency of this Home by enlarging our contributions and making it a matter of special care and special prayer. JOSHUA RATLIFF, Chairman.

Report was discussed by O. A. Steele and W. Y. Adams and a collection was taken which amounted to $11.55, and the discussion was continued by G. A. Chunn and Joshua Ratliff. The report was adopted as read.

On motion the report of the committee on Sabbath School was layed over until Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

Called for report of the Executive Committee which was read by Bro. S. J. Cox and adopted as follows:—

Your Committee would report that they held a meeting at New Harmony and laid plans of work as follows:—Dividing the work into four sections, giving Rev. W. A. Alexander the 1st Union District, Rev. H. W. Head 2nd. Rev W. Y. Adams 3rd, and Rev. E. M. Bowerman 4th; the result of which is as follows:—W. A. Alexander did thirty days work, H. W Head eight, W. Y. Adams four, and E. M. Bowerman four, for all of which we have paid $1.00 per day, making a total of $46 00 paid for mission work in our bounds Result of work good. We called Sunday School Convention, as directed by the Association, which was held and organized at Cleveland. We have in contemplation mission work for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted, A. F. WHITLEY, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers was read by Bro. A. R Head and adopted as follows:—

We your Committee on Deceased Ministers submit the following:—We find that the lives of all our ministers have been spared another year, for which we should be thankful to Almighty God for this great blessing.

A. R. HEAD, Chairman.

Committee on Nominations reported as shown below which report was adopted as submitted:—

We the Committee on Nominations recommend that the next session of this body be held with the church at Macedonia, commencing on Friday before the third Sabbath in October 1899; and that Bro. H. G. B. Bynum be appointed to preach the Introductory, and in case of failure Bro. W. A. Alexander to preach: and that Bro F. M. Tidwell preach the Missionary Sermon, with Bro. J. A. May alternate: and further that Brethren A. F. Whitley, Joshua Ratliff, A. R. Head, F. P. Smith, W. D. Redman and the Treasurer be appointed the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Wm. L. ELLISON, Chairman.

Committee on Letters and Documents reported through their chairman, Bro J. M. Russell. Report was amended and adopted as follows:—

We your committee on Letters and Documents beg to report as follows:—We have examined the letters as received, and find that twenty-six churches are represented in this body. We find that there are ninety delegates besides the ex-officio members, and the Association is growing very large. We recommend that the Association adopt the form of letter printed and furnished by The Alabama Baptist so as to report the finances in full to the Association. We further recommend that the pastors urge upon their church members the necessity of subscribing for and reading The Alabama Baptist.

J. M. RUSSELL, Chairman.

Finance Committee, through Bro. W. L. Ellison, chairman of the committee, reported as below which was adopted:—

Your Finance Committee offers this as their report. We have received $114.78 to be used as follows and divide as below:

CHURCHES	Minutes.	State Missions	Foreign Missions	Orphans Home	Ministerial Education	Associational Missions	Home Missions
Antioch	$2.00	$3 50	$	$	$	$	$
Austin Creek	1.50		3.00				
Blountsville	1.10	6.00	2.00				
Brooksville	1.00		1.00	2.40			
Bethel	.80			.50		2.10	.50
Friendship	1 55		3 65				
Guin's Cove	.50	1.50	2.00				
Holly Pond	1 40	1.60					
Harmony	1.50		2.00				
Liberty Hill	75						1.50
Liberty	2.70		2.13	2.28			
Macedonia	1.30	1.15	5.40				
Mt. Tabor	1.75	3.00	2 00	1 05	1 00		
Mulberry	.75		3 00	.50	1.00		
Mt. Pleasant	1.15	.20	.20				
Mt. Pisgah	1 00					4.25	
New Harmony	1 50						
Pine Grove	1.50	5.35					
Pine Bluff	1.00						
Big Warrior	.70		1.00				
Cedar Grove	.50		1 00				
New Prospect	.80		.50			2.00	
Oak Grove	1 00		3.00				
County Line	1 00	1.00					56
W A Neal	.05						
Public colle'n				11.55			
Total ...	28 75	23.30	31.88	18 28	2.00	8 35	2.56

All of which we have paid to treasurer and have his receipt.

Called for report of Associational Missionaries. Bro. W. A. Alexander made a statement of his work in the 1st District, Bro. H. W. Head of his work in the 2nd, Bro. E. M. Bowerman of his work in the 3rd, and Bro. W. Y. Adams of his work in the 4th.

On a call for volunteer mission work in the bounds of our Association during the next associational year, Brethren H. W. Head, W. A. Alexander, Allen Dorman, E. M. Bowerman, S. J Cox, S. O. Howard, W J. Lee, and S. R. Burson agreed to put in ten days each,

and Bro. W. Y. Adams four days, and Bro. Francis Tidwell an indefinite amount of time.

The following Standing Committees were appointed:—

On Sabbath Schools—R B Simms, A F Whitley, and I T Stephens.
On Temperance—O W Harmon, S R Burson, and F M Absher.
On Education—P G Alldredge, H W Head, and J A May.
On Missions—S J Cox, W A Alexander, and H G B Bynum.
On Orphanage—O A Steele, S O Howard, and Joshua Ratliff.

Committee on Devotion reported preaching at night by Bro. F. Tidwell.

On motion the Clerk was allowed $10 00 for his services in having the minutes printed and the remainder to be expended for minutes.

On request of O. A. Steele, who had been appointed a year ago to get a copy of the minutes of each session of the Association from its organization, Bro. Joshua Ratliff and Bro. A. F. Whitley were appointed to assist in the work.

Called for Treasurer's report which was read and adopted as follows:—

I. T. Stephens in account with the Warrior River Baptist Association.

To Am't Rec'd from Finance Committee for Minutes	$25.35	Paid Clerk Minute Funds	$25.35
State Missions	27.40	" W. L. Culbertson for Foreign Missions	21.40
Foreign "	21 40	" Bro. Mewbern	14.36
Public Collection for "	17.16	" for Mission Work to W. A. Alexander	30.00
" " " Mewbern	14.36	W. Y. Adams	4.00
Rec'd of Blountsville School for Bible Extention	2.50	H. W. Head	8.00
		E. M. Bowerman	4.00
To Am't Due Treasurer	2.44	" Sunday School Board	2.50
Total	$110.61	Total	$110.61

On motion the following resolution was read and adopted:—

Resolved: That we recommend the churches send contributions each year in order to create a fund for the benefit of indigent ministers and the wives of deceased ministers: and that said funds be controlled by the Executive Committee of this Association.

Resolution adopted as follows:—

Resolved: That this body return their thanks to this church and vicinity for their kind hospitalities during this session.

Association adjourned until 8 o'clock a. m. Sunday.

Preaching at night by Bro. Francis Tidwell to a large concourse of people. Sermon was able and was well received by the congregation.

MORNING SESSION.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 1898.

Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Prayer by

Bro. H. G. B. Bynum.

Called and corrected the roll.

Called for report of committee on prayer meetings which was read by Bro. D. H. Sims as follows:—

Your committee on Prayer Meetings submit the following report:—We find from reading the letters from the churches that but few regular Prayer Meetings are kept up. We know from personal experience that Prayer Meetings add great life and power to a church, and we urge each pastor and the official members of each church to work up, if possible, a Prayer Meeting in each church in this Association, that there may be more work in this line of the service of God in the churches, as we are taught that all things are sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. W. J. LEE, Chairman.

Report was discussed by F. P. Smith, A. J. McCarley, D. H. Sims, I. T. Stephens, S. J Cox, L. Mullins, J G. Blanton, J. M Daniel, A. Dorman. Association sang "Oh thou that hearest prayer" and was called to prayer, Bro. S. J. Cox leading the prayer.

Called for report of committee on Sabbath Schools which was read by O. A. Steele, discussed by P. G. Alldredge, O. A. Steele, W Y Adams, H. Little and H W. Head, and adopted as read:

Brethren:—The great importance of the Sunday School work seems to fall short of the appreciation at our hands that a work of so much importance to our church prosperity should receive. We seem to be all agreed that we have thus saith the Lord for the Sunday School, for the Lord in his sojourn here on earth taught on the Sabbath, and when we examine the recent past to see the results which come from the Sunday School work we are fully persuaded that God's sanction and blessings have surrounded and crowned the efforts put forth in that direction. Whatever of open opposition to Sunday Schools there may have been in the past, has been hushed by the onward progress of the work, and by the approval of the work by the more advanced thinkers and best minds of the church. It seems that we are agreed that every church should have a good live Sunday School under the direct supervission of the church, but we fail to do so. The question then arises, why is this if you believe in the work? The only answer to the question is, that we are lacking in interest. Oh! that the churches composing our Association could be aroused along this line, that we might be sowing the seeds of truth in the minds of the people and especially of the younger ones. Brethren:—If we do not fill the minds of the people with the truths of the Gospel the devil will harden their hearts and minds against the reception of the truths.

We recommend that every church in the Association that can possibly do so make a new effort and a stronger one than ever before to organize an evergreen Sunday School at their own church. And we further recommend the use of our own Literature published at Nashville, Tenn. O. A. STEELE, Chairman

Association adjourned to take effect after the Missionary Sermon is preached at 11 o'clock.

Bro. J. A. May preached the Missionary Sermon from 4th verse of the 9th chapter of John, after the sermon a collection was taken amounting to $6.49 for missions. Prayer by Bro W. Y. Adams.

The session was harmonious throughout and the spirit was felt among us.

A. DORMAN, Moderator.

O. A. STEELE, Clerk.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

I. Of the Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter: that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

II. Of the True God.

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. Of the Fall of Man.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or choice.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is worthy of grace through the meditorial offices of the Son of God; who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now entroned in heaven and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassonate, and an all-sufficient Savior

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secured to such as believe in him is justification, that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most

blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condition.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith.

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the ways of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners: that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humanity, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Of Sanctification.

We believe that sanctification is the process by which according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a

progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

XI, Of the Perseverance of Saints.

We believe that such only are believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel.

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribes to fallen man to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love to sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. Of A Gospel Church.

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his work; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that christian baptism is immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, or faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privilege of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceeded always by solemn self-examination.

XV Of the Christian Sabbath.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the de-

vout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. Of Civil Government.

We believe the civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest of good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII. Of the Righteous and Wicked.

We believe that their is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirt of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. Of the World to Come.

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or in hell, on principles of righteousness.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

W. J. Lee ..... Adville.
J. W. Crumbley ..... Oneonta.
S. R. Burson .....
W. A. Alexander ..... Walnut Grove
A. A. Pannell ..... Bangor.
Francis Tidwell ..... Tidwell.
S. J. Cox ..... Gum Springs.
H. W. Head ..... " "
A. Dorman ..... McLarty.
J. A. May ..... Walnut Grove.
Jesse Brown ..... High Mound.
H. G. B. Bynum ..... Snead.
G. A. Chunn ..... Blountsville.
S. O. Howard ..... Cullman.
W. H. Absher ..... Hanceville.

LICENSED MINISTERS.

L. T. Chitwood ..... Tidwell.
J. B. Jett ..... Bangor.
J. K. Nix ..... Bird.
R. A. Mann ..... Liberty.

STATISTICS OF THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1898.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS	CLERKS	CLERKS P. O.	Membership last Reported	Inc. by			Dec by			Present Membership	Preaching Sun.
					Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Death		
Antioch	Francis Tidwell	F P Smith	Liberty	92	3	16	1	6		1	105	3
Austin Creek	Francis Tidwell	G E Pass	Joy	91	8	5		2	1		95	1
Big Warrior	S J Cox	R H Harden	Tidmore	8		6					14	
Brooksville	Allen Dorman	P G Alldredge	Brooksville	37	2		1				36	
Blountsville	F M Absher	R B Simms	Blountsville	61	8	5	1	4	2		69	1
Bethel	W Y Adams	J D Stephens	Snead	57	8	9	2				76	1
Cedar Grove	S J Cox	J I Green	Joy	31		1			16	2	12	1
County Line	Francis Tidwell	W M Hannah	Gurleys Creek								41	
Friendship	H G B Bynum	W A Carroll	Friendship		11	3		15	3	2	130	1
Guin's Cove	H W Head			22							22	
Holly Pond	L Mullins	D W Harmon	Holly Pond	137		15		6	6	1	137	2
Harmony	H A May	Wm L Ellison	Walnut Grove	113					1		112	1
Liberty Hill	H W Crumbley	E M Cox	Royal	60		1		3	1	3	46	
Liberty	Francis Tidwell	O A Steele	Oneonta	152	1	4	1	7	1	3	147	2
Mulberry	H W Head	C L Starnes	Gum Spring	26		4		3			25	1
Mt. Pisgah	W A Alexander	R R Harris	Nix		8	2		3	1		71	3
Mt. Pleasant	H W Crumbley	W D Redman	Hendrix	67				2			65	1
Macedonia	W J Collier	M B Lowery	McLarty	57	9	5	1	4		1	67	
Mt. Tabor	S J Cox	J W Ratliff	Gum Spring	107	2			6	3	2	98	
New Prospect	S R Burson	J H Stracener	Brooksville		7	10		2	3	2	61	2
New Harmony	Francis Tidwell	J C Tidwell	Tidwell	83	3	4		6	1	1	80	1
Oak Grove	W A Pannell	W G Dutton	Bangor	63	21	6	3	2	5		85	
Pine Grove	J W Crumbley	Minett Murphree	Oneonta	78	4	3		6	2	1	76	4
Pine Bluff	E M Bowerman	D H Sims.		41	19	6		5	2	1	58	